



# Bay Area REPUBLICAN WOMEN

TFRW Region XVIII, Texas Senate District 11

## Happy New Year!

Hello BARW!

As I start my second term as President, I wanted to say “thank you” to the 2024 board members, our BARW community, and Bay Oaks Country Club. I have been involved with BARW for many years, have attended many meetings, worked in the campaign offices, attended many of the Lincoln Day Dinners and volunteered. BARW is an amazing group of dedicated women and men, and I look forward to working with you again this year.

With Republican Representative Mike Johnson of Louisiana winning reelection as speaker of the House of the 119th Congress and the Republican control of the House and Senate, and with President Donald Trump’s return to the White House on January 20<sup>th</sup>, I say we have begun 2025 with hope. Republican leaders are pushing their list of priorities that they aim to quickly address, notably immigration and taxes.

If you want to keep an eye on what our U.S. Senators, Representatives and the daily work that is happening check out the following links. [U.S. Senate](#), [U.S. House of Representatives](#)

The Texas House and Senate leadership are outlining their legislative priorities before the start of 89th Texas Legislative Session which begins January 14 and will end June 2. [Texas Legislature On Line](#) is the official website of the Texas Legislature, where you can find information on bills, calendars, committees, and more.

Our January 28th luncheon meeting is just around the corner. [Holly Hanson](#) is our guest speaker. Holly is a contributing writer for The Texan News covering Houston and Harris County. Be sure to RSVP to [barw.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:barw.rsvp@gmail.com).

I have been watching the news the last couple of days and the horrendous fires in California. My family and I were there last year around this time. We stayed a night in Pacific Palisades and toured the J. Paul Getty Museum. This is tragic in so many ways. Please keep the residents of the Los Angeles area as they try to battle the fires and their safety.

**Keep Texas RED!**

Debra Risinger, BARW President



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## Next Meeting - January 20, 2025

### Holly Hansen

Holly Hansen is a freelance writer and journalist who has covered Houston and Harris County for *The Texan News* since 2019. She is a regular panelist on the FOX 26 "What's Your Point?" show in Houston and is often heard providing reports and commentary with political talk radio hosts Kenny Webster, Chris "X" Blayney, Chad Hasty, and "The Amigos" with Texas Sen. Paul Bettencourt.

A 30-year resident of Texas, Holly is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Central Florida, where she earned a degree in History with a focus on medieval Europe, Russia, and the Soviet Union.

Her former column, "All in Perspective," ran in several Central Texas newspapers, and she has contributed to a variety of Texas digital media outlets. In addition to writing about politics and policy, she also enjoys writing about faith and culture.

**Holly Hansen**  
Reporter  
The Texan News  
512-799-2027



**THE TEXAN**★

The next general meeting of the Bay Area Republican Women is Tuesday, January 28. **The deadline for reservation is Friday, January 24 at 5:00pm.** It is important to meet this deadline so BOCC can prepare for our club's luncheon. Please send the reservation to [BARW.RSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BARW.RSVP@gmail.com).

See you there, Chris Elguezabal

**IMPORTANT!**

## 2025 BARW Officer Installation



# Egg Nog Party

*Susan & Mike McCoy*

*Thank you for sharing your home  
with BARW for the Egg Nog Party –  
Beautiful!*



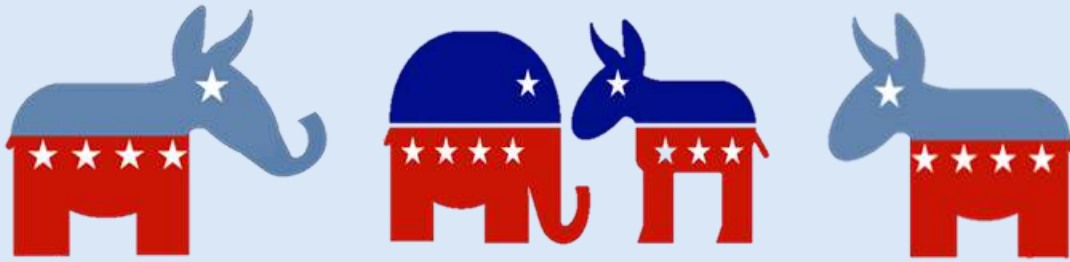
## The Vote for Speaker of the House of Representatives

Thomas Massie (Kentucky), Raph Norman (South Carolina), and Keith Self (Texas) voted against Speaker Mike Johnson on the first round of voting for Speaker of the House Friday, January 3. Norma and Self came around and voted for him on the second ballot to vote him in as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Newt Gingrich had a few words about the dissenters on Fox News.

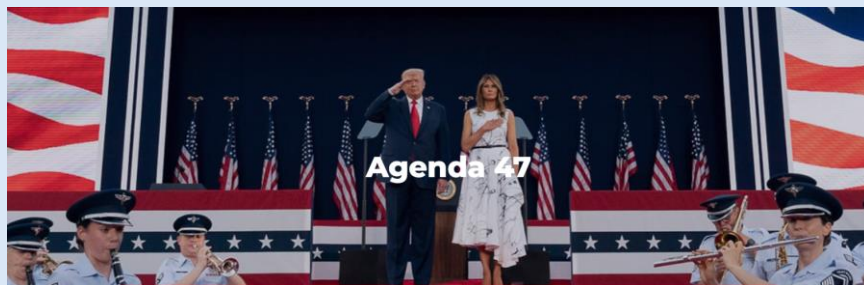
“It is certainly a constitutional right, they are independent the elected, but let’s be clear, this is a stunningly stupid, suicidal strategy, which only weakens the Republican party, weakens president trump, makes it harder to fix America, and these guys need psychologists. I don’t know what they think they are accomplishing in the real world except to make a spectacle out of this thing. Now I hope that at least two of them will switch. I think Massie is probably utterly, totally hopeless.

He is sufficiently certain of his moral rights and his brilliant insights. I don’t think he will move under any circumstances. But I would hope the other two realized they are going to look like idiots. It is not going to change. The party is not going to go oh, gee, 214 of us were right — 215 of us were right, but you three, you have convinced us on the second ballot, let’s do something else. I have been at this business, as you know, a long time. Really, literally, as self-destructive as I have ever seen a political party be, and it is down to a handful of people. Everyone else’s trying to get it to work. Everyone. Moderate, conservative, freedom caucus, you name it, they are all trying to get it to work except for a very tiny handful.”



**Can the Republicans get Agenda 47 done?**

[Platform | Donald J. Trump](#)



## Important Dates

### January

- 15 **Galveston RW**, San Luis Resort, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, 11:30am
- 17-18 TFRW Board Meeting, Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center
- 20 Inauguration Day  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 28 **Bay Area RW**, Bay Oaks Country Club, 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Houston, LUNCH MEETING  
11am Social, 12 noon Speaker, Business Meeting. RSVP to [barw.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:barw.rsvp@gmail.com) for Lunch. Lunch cost: \$30.00

### February

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 6 West Pearland RW, 518 Event Studio, 8201 Broadway, Ste. 171, Pearland, 6:30pm
- 7 **Clear Creek RW**, La Brisa Restaurant, 501 Wesley Dr., League City, 11:30am
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 President's Day
- 18 **Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women Nuts N Bolts** training workshop. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt, Houston. Check in 8:30am. Program 9:15am. For more information and to register [www.ghcfrw.org](http://www.ghcfrw.org).
- 19 **Galveston RW**, San Luis Resort, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, 11:30am
- 22 George Washington's Birthday
- 25 **Bay Area RW**, Bay Oaks Country Club, 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Houston, LUNCH MEETING  
11am Social, 12 noon Speaker, Business Meeting. RSVP to [barw.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:barw.rsvp@gmail.com) for Lunch. Lunch cost: \$30.00

### Fisher House Donation

Hello BARW,

I am happy to report that due to the generosity of everyone who attended the Annual Egg Nog Party, I was able to mail checks totaling **\$600.00** to Fisher House.

Well done!

Debbie Roan

Campaign Activities Chair



**Fisher House**

The Houston Fisher House provides living suites, at no cost, to family members of hospitalized Veterans and military members.

## Campaign Activities

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> Representative Mike Johnson was elected Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives. Thank goodness this happened on the first ballot with a little help from Donald Trump thus avoiding an embarrassing start to the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> with a GOP-controlled Congress.

Here in Texas, the 89th Legislature's regular session begins January 14<sup>th</sup> and runs until June 2, 2025. Despite a Republican controlled Senate and House of Representatives, the Republican party finds itself at an impasse over who will swing the gavel that brings the house into order. [David Cook \(R-Mansfield\)](#) and [Dustin Burrows \(R-Lubbock\)](#) are competing for the gavel. It takes 76 votes to become the Speaker of the 150-member Texas House.

Burrows previously claimed he had enough Republican and Democrat support to win the Speaker's gavel, but later some officials removed their names from his endorsement list. Cook secured the House Republican Caucus endorsement for Speaker, but it was a vote taken without all members present. Leaders of the Republican Party of Texas and others are upping the pressure on Republican lawmakers who are backing Representative Burrows and not supporting the [House Republican Caucus endorsement](#). The victor of the race will likely determine the direction of the legislature.

On Tuesday, November 12, Senators and House members can begin pre-filing their legislation. Here is a list of some of the bills that have been prefilled: [Texas Legislature | 2025-2026 | 89th Legislature | Prefiling | LegiScan](#)

Let the games begin! It should be an interesting January.

Debbie Guitian Roan  
BARW Campaign Activities Chair



# Bay Area Republican Women's Club General Meeting Minutes October 22, 2024

A General Meeting of the Bay Area Republican Women's Club was called to order by President Debra Risinger on October 22, 2024, at 12:00 PM at Bay Oaks Country Club, 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Houston. A quorum was established. Present were board members Debra Risinger, Karen Hall, Karen Plante, Marcella Erwin, Debbie Roan, Pat Adams, Jean Raffetto, Chri Elquezabal and Eliza Paul.

**Invocation:** Given by Rebecca Martin - BARW Chaplain

**U.S. Pledge:** Led by Brian Staley - Candidate Judge 333<sup>rd</sup> District Civil Court

**Texas Pledge:** Led by Mike Knox - Candidate Harris County Sheriff

## Candidates and Representatives:

Mike Knox	Candidate - Harris County Sheriff
Lee Shuchart	Candidate - Judge 61 <sup>st</sup> District Civil Court
Cyndy Butcher for	Candidate - HD 24 Representative Dr. Greg Bonnen
Brie Little for	Candidate - SD11 Senator Mayes Middleton
Dennis Paul	Candidate - HD 129
Brian Staley	Candidate - Judge 333 <sup>rd</sup> District Civil Court
Rex Teter	SD6 Precinct Chair 0302
Anna Weller	SD11 Precinct Chair 0728
Debbie Roan	SD11 Precinct Chair 1101
Karen Plante	SD11 Precinct Chair 0718
Karen Wheeler-Hall	Board of Trustees – LaPorte ISD

**Guests:** Kathy Hannen, Jane Brandt, Cindy Haven, Charlene Slack, Valerie Brumfield and Colleen Etheridge.

**President's Minute:** President Debra Risinger reported that the annual Lincoln Day Dinner (LDD) was well-attended. Debra thanked the committee for their hard work.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Minutes:** President Debra Risinger announced that the Minutes from September 24, 2024, General Meeting could be found in the newsletter. A copy was also available for review at the meeting. Debra requested for any corrections to the Minutes. None presented. The Minutes stand approved as submitted.

**Treasurer Report:** Marcella Erwin presented her report:

Balance 09/24/2024	\$22,845.15
Deposits	34,415.00
Expenditures	<u>(-14,420.68)</u>
Ending Balance	\$42,839.47

The report was submitted for review.

**Membership:** Karen Hall reported that the current membership shows ninety-one members. Renewal of dues for 2025 may begin in September. She reminded everyone of the December 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eggnog Social. This year, the venue will be at the home of Susan and Mike McCoy. An invitation with details will be forthcoming.

**Nominations Committee:** Chris Elquezabal presented the slate of nominees for the 2025 Board:

President	Debra Risinger
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President/Memb.	Karen Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs	Ann Arnett
Recording Secretary	Karen Plante
Corresponding Secretary	Erin Boyd
Treasurer	Marcella Erwin

A motion was made by Debbie Roan to accept the slate of nominees. A second was made by Valerie Brumfield. A vote was taken. The motion carried.

**Campaign Activities:** Debbie Roan reported that the BARW PAC held a meeting in September. A donation was made to Holly Williamson’s campaign (Candidate Justice of Peace PCT 8).

Early Voting (EV) began October 21 and runs through November 1. Please vote early.

Local EV locations include The Islamic Center (former DPS building on Hwy. 3), the Freeman Library, University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL) and Bay Area Community Center. It is important to vote the entire ballot, but do not select Democrat candidates. Debbie recommends voting “no” to Harris County Proposition A.

In compliance with the Texas Election Code, no electioneering is permitted at polling locations inside the 100-foot distance marker.

Opportunities to volunteer with President Trump’s campaign can be found at [TrumpForce47.com](https://TrumpForce47.com). Select the link to sign up for “captain.” Even if you do not prefer either presidential or vice-presidential candidate, it remains urgent to vote the remainder of the republican candidates on the ballot.

**Caring for America (Parliamentarian):** Jean Raffetto reminded the group that this will be the last time for BARW to donate to the Meals on Wheels program in 2024. Donations collected at the December 4 Eggnog Social will be presented to Fisher House.

**Program:** Debra Risinger introduced the first guest speaker, Brian Staley, a candidate for the 333<sup>rd</sup> District Civil Court. Mr. Staley spoke to this position and why a changing from democrat judges is needed. The next speaker was Lee Shuchart, Candidate - Judge 61<sup>st</sup> District Civil Court. Ms. Shuchart addressed the concerns and significant issues facing this court. Candidate for Harris County Sheriff, Mike Knox spoke next. Mr. Knox described the job of Sheriff as providing for public safety. Also, there is misappropriation of money under the current corrupt sheriff, county judge, and certain city council members.

**New Business and Announcements:**

Debra Risinger announced that there will be no meeting in November and extended an invitation to the December 4<sup>th</sup> annual Eggnog Social.

Debra Risinger moved to adjourn the meeting. No objections were heard. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Minutes by Karen Plante, Recording Secretary





## Continue Learning

[Inside Israel's plot to deliver explosive pagers to Hezbollah terrorists | 60 Minutes - CBS News](#)

60 Minutes - Newsmakers

Former agents from Israel's Mossad detail how they built and sold explosive pagers to Hezbollah terrorists

By Lesley Stahl

December 22, 2024 / 7:41 PM EST / CBS News

On Sept. 17, after Israel and the terrorist organization Hezbollah had been in an escalating war for nearly a year, the Israeli spy agency Mossad launched one of the most daring and sophisticated deceptions in the history of counterintelligence: the pager plot, a modern take on the Trojan horse. Mossad created a bomb in a pocket – and tricked Hezbollah fighters into unwittingly wearing these devices on their bodies.

**Mossad** – The Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations is the national intelligence agency of the State of Israel.

**This interview gives an interesting glimpse at how technology is shaping warfare. What seems impossible is today's reality.**

# 47

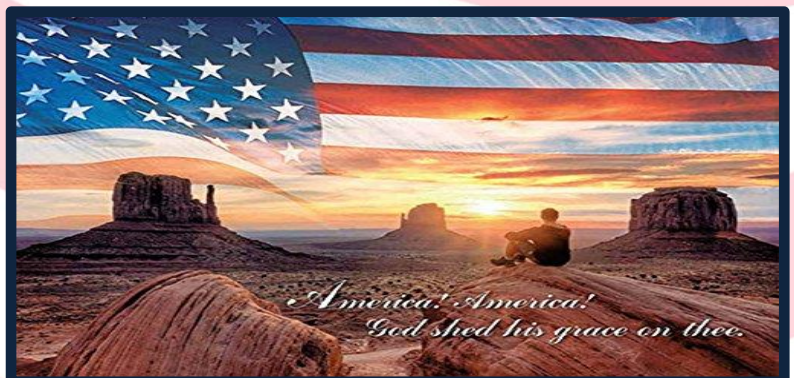
MAKE AMERICA  
GREAT AGAIN

# HOPE

# JANUARY

- 3 Pat Adams
- 5 Debbie May
- 6 Darla McKittrick
- 14 Erin Boyd
- 16 Wayne Adams
- 18 Mary Beth McCoy
- 19 Mark Brown
- 22 Elizabeth Lauzon
- 26 Stephanie Tanner
- 29 Marcella Erwin
- 29 Susan Franklin
- 30 Linda Guice
- 31 Joyce Taylor

Happy  
Birthday



# BARW 2025 Officers



**President**

**Debra Risinger**  
[rcubedmdr@gmail.com](mailto:rcubedmdr@gmail.com)



**1st Vice  
President**

**Karen Wheeler Hall**  
[khall@rothe.com](mailto:khall@rothe.com)



**2nd Vice  
President**

**Ann Arnett**  
[annarnette1989@gmail.com](mailto:annarnette1989@gmail.com)



**Recording  
Secretary**

**Karen Plante**  
[kplante@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kplante@sbcglobal.net)



**Corresponding  
Secretary**

**Erin Boyd**  
[oian24@yahoo.com](mailto:oian24@yahoo.com)



**PAC Treasurer**

**Marcella Erwin**  
[marcella.erwin@att.net](mailto:marcella.erwin@att.net)



**Immediate  
Past President**

**Debbie Roan**  
[dgroan@comcast.net](mailto:dgroan@comcast.net)



## Other Area Republican Women Groups

### Baytown RW

[Conservative Principles - Baytown Republican Women](#)

### Clear Creek RW

[About – Clear Creek Republican Women \(clearcreekrw.org\)](#)

### Galveston RW

[Galveston Republican Women](#)

### Texas Gulf Coast RW

[\(20+\) Texas Gulf Coast Republican Women | Facebook](#)

### West Pearland RW

[West Pearland Republican Women \(wprw.republican\)](#)



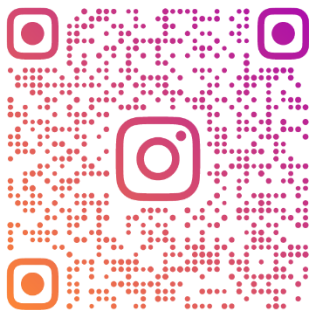
## Stay Connected

### Bay Area Republican Women

- <https://barw.org/>

### BARW Facebook

- <https://www.facebook.com/Bayarearepublicanwoman/>



#BAYAREAREPUBLICANWOMEN

### Instagram

[#bayarearepublicanwomen](#)



Debra Risinger  
Social Media

### Local, State, Federal, & Other Informational Web Page Links

- <https://barw.org/links/>